THE SPEECH OF HIS GRACE THE Earl of Lauderdaill,

His Majesties High-Commissioner

For the PARLIAMENT

OF

SCOTLAND:

Delivered in Parliament

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THE SPEECH OF His Grace the Earl of LAUDERDAILL, His Majesties High-Commissioner for the Parliament of *Scotland*.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

BY the Authority of the King, and His special Command you are here assembled in His high Court of Parliament. You have heard His royal Intentions under His own hand, with the chief Reasons of His calling you together. You have heard His most gracious Expressions of His kindness to His Subjects in this His ancient Kingdom, and His Confidence of you their Representatives; And I shall as shortly as I can acquaint you with what I have further in command from my Master to say in His name at the opening of this His Parliament. And first I am to assure you of His Majesties constant and unalterable Zeal, for maintaining and defending the true reformed Protestant Religion in this His Kingdom, for which he will constantly lay out His whole Power and Authority, as also for discouraging and punishing all Atheism and Profanities, and all that is con-

trary to true Religion and Godlineſs. I am further particularly commanded to aſſure you, That with no leſs Zeal and Conſtancie He will maintain and defend the ancient Government by Archbiſhops and Biſhops, as now it is happily ſettled, as a ſure fence for the true reformed Proteſtant Religion, A Government moſt ſuteable to Monarchy; and well may I call it Ancient, for whoever will look into Antiquity ſhall find Epiſcopal Government hath continued in the whole Catholick Church both Eaſt and Weſt, even from the moſt Primitive and Apoſtolick Times: I ſhall not inſiſt on the ſad Calamities and Confuſions which the violent and rebellious endeavours to overturn this Government produced in this Kingdom; His Majeſties gracious Act of Pardon and Oblivion forbids the ripping up thoſe ſores which His own royal hand hath cured, and long may they be buried in Oblivion: Yet ſure I am, the reflections on thoſe diſmal days ought to raiſe no leſs Zeal in the Parliament, and in all good Subjects for the maintaining of that Government as now it is happily ſettled: For, in His Majeſties name and by His ſpecial command I do aſſure you, He will employ His utmoſt power in the maintenance of that Government, and will protect the perſons of my Lords the Archbiſhops and Biſhops, and of the Loyal, Orthodox and peaceable Clergy in the exerciſe of their functions: He will not endure thoſe numerous and unlawfull Conventicles which tend to Sedition and Schiſm, which have been too frequent in ſome few Shires of this Kingdome: Good Laws have been made; and in proſecution of thoſe Laws, the Lords of His Majeſties Privy Council have ſhown their care for ſuppreſſing thoſe ſeditious Aſſemblies; Yea, and of late His Majeſty has graciouſly indulged the planting of ſome who were eſteemed peaceable men,

men, in vacant Churches (though they came not up to the rules eſtabliſht.) It will be expected that they walk worthy of ſo great a favour: But if after this removal of the very pretence of unlawful Conventicles any factious people ſhall in contempt of His Majeſties Laws; yea, and of His indulgence alſo, ſeditiouſly Aſſemble themſelves under pretence of Religious Worſhip, His Majeſtie doth Require His Parliament, and all in Authority under Him, vigorouſly to ſuppreſs ſuch Meetings, and to bring the pretended Preachers, and the Ring-leaders of ſuch unlawful Aſſemblies, to condign and exemplary puniſhment.

In the next Place, I am commanded to let you know, That I am ſufficiently Inſtructed to give His Majeſties Royal Aſſent to ſuch Laws as ſhall be prepared in this Parliament, for the conſtant Peace and welfare of this Church, and of the Kingdom in all its Relations: But the chief Occaſion of calling this Parliament, is the proſecution of that great and glorious Deſign of bringing His Kingdoms of *Scotland* and *England* to a ſtricter and nearer Union. This Deſign was begun by His Royal Grandfather of bleſſed Memory, who went ſo far on towards this great Work, that in the firſt year of His Reign over Great Britain, King *James* named Commiſſioners for this Kingdom, who by Act of Parliament were authorized to Treat and Conſult with Commiſſioners for the Kingdom of *England*, concerning ſuch an Union: And in purſuance of their Treaty, Acts were made for the Repealing of Hoſtile Laws, and the utter abolition of all memory of Hoſtility between the two Nations: And in the Seventh year of His Raign, it was, by the Judges of all the Courts of *Weſtminſter*-Hall in *England*, ſolemnly adjudged, in the Caſe of the *Poſt-nati*, that thoſe who after the Deſcent of the Crown of *England* to King

James, were born in *Scotland*, were no Aliens in *England*, and consequently were capable, not onely of Land, but of all other Immunities, as if they had been born in *England*, so much was done in King *James* his time. And the occassions of His Majesties Resolutions to prosecute this great Work, were these, Complaints having been made to His Majesty, That since the 25*th* day of *March*, in the Twelfth year of His Reign, new duties were imposed in *England*, upon divers Commodities of the growth, production, and manufacture of *Scotland*, and incapacities laid upon the Subjects of *Scotland*: It pleased the King to appoint divers Meetings upon this Matter, though without Success: whereupon the late Parliament of this Kingdom imposed, in their third Session *Ann.* 1663. great Duties upon the Commodities of the growth, production or manufacture of *England*, which by His Majesties Command were suspended, and have not been exacted, though the Duties in *England* still continue; and upon His Majesties recommendation to the Parliament of *England*, an Act was lately made for setling freedom and intercourse of Trade between the two Kingdomes: Whereupon Commissioners were nominated and appointed by His Majesty for both Kingdoms to Treat upon that Affair, who had many Meetings, but produced no effect, unless it were a conviction of the Difficulty, if not impossibility of setling it in any other way, then by a nearer and more compleat Union of the two Kingdoms. His Majesty is fully perswaded that nothing can tend more to the good and security of both Nations, than such an Union. And finding that in His Royal Grandfathers time, so great an advance was made towards this Union, and that the continuance under the same Obedience for near 70. years, having begotten the same common Friends

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and common Enimies to both Nations, and taken off a great part of thoſe Difficulties, which at the firſt (notwithſtanding the Union in Obedience to One Soveraign) ſtood in the way. His Majeſty well hopes, that what is yet wanting to the perfecting of it, may be now accompliſh'd, And therefore, in His Majeſties Name, I do moſt heartily recommend this great work unto you; and I doubt not, but you will ſpeedily ſend ſuch an humble Anſwer to His Majeſties moſt gracious Letter, as may witneſs how well grounded that Confidence is, which His Majeſty hath expreſſed of you. This day the Parliament of *England* meets, and the King will both Himſelf, and by His Lord Keeper make the like Propoſals (as to the Union) unto both Houſes: And I am confident, that Loyal Parliament, who have all along given ſuch ample Teſtimonies of their Duty and Affection to His Majeſty, will upon this Occaſion make a ſuitable Return to His Propoſals. What is farther to be propoſed upon this Matter, ſhall be offered at your next dayes Meeting: and the King doubts not but that after the meeting of Commiſſioners for both Kingdoms, thoſe things will be tendered to your conſideration, in order to the Union, as ſhall tend to the Honour of His Majeſty, and the common good of all His Subjects. Theſe things I was commanded, before I came away from His Majeſty to acquaint you with, and I have ſince, upon another Occaſion, received an order in writing, bearing date the *7th* of this Moneth; by which I am again commanded, amply to declare His Majeſties unchangable Reſolution to maintain *Epiſcopal* Government in the Church. So having begun and ended with this Declaration, I hope both the groundleſs Jealouſies, on the one hand, and the vain and idle hopes on the other ſhall be at an end.

FINIS.